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ABSTRACT

The National Governors Association (NGA) selected the Independence (Missouri) Public School District as one of 16 districts to implement recommendations in the NGA's "Time for Results" report. The district was chosen because of its strong leadership, evidence of community support, and ability to implement innovating programs. The Independence elementary program goes beyond the basics; the district was one of the first nationwide to pilot the Parents as Teachers Program, an exemplary model of early childhood education. Other recognized programs include Success in Reading and Writing and the Focus Curriculum (for third-grade students with reading deficiencies) and IMPACT (for gifted students). The junior and senior high programs offer comprehensive curricula and a wide variety of sports and other extracuricular activities. The senior high program offers college preparatory courses that allow students to earn college credit in American history, English, math, and science. The district also provides special and continuing education services and enrichment opportunities offered by a math/physics institute, a music/art institute, and other programs. An appendix provides city and school statistics and a map of Independence showing school locations. Five full-page color photographs and other illustrations are included. (MLH)

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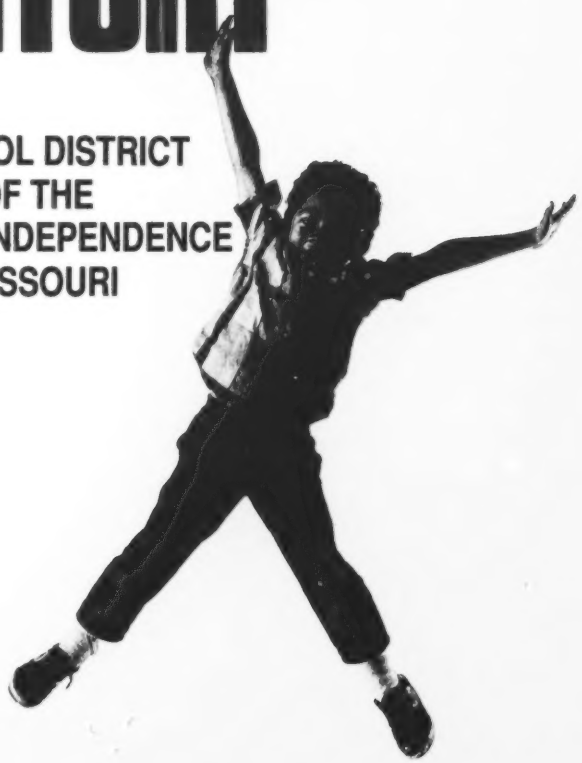
EDUCATION FOR THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY



SCHOOL DISTRICT
OF THE
CITY OF INDEPENDENCE
MISSOURI

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Office of Educational Research and Improvement
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)

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Roberta Page

TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)."

EA 021 613

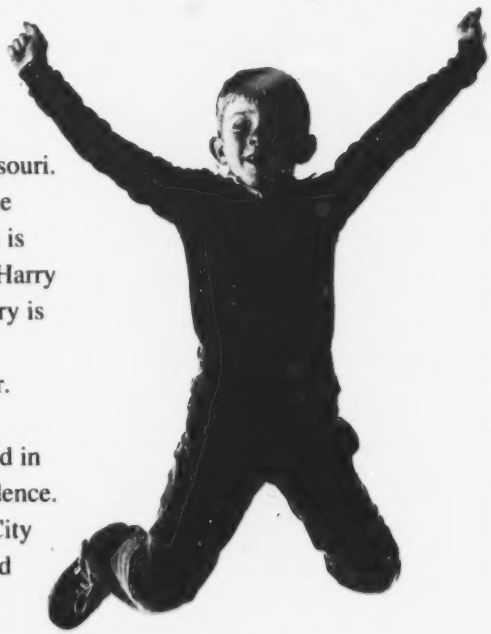
"...In September our citizens of Independence adopted the special act, and elected as a board of instruction progressive men, who, entering spiritedly upon their task, have accomplished everything that could be immediately hoped for. Houses have been rented, qualified teachers employed and today, six school rooms are filled to overflowing, and the number of scholars daily increasing."

Excerpt from the report of William J. Shaw, Jackson County Superintendent of Schools, 1866

HISTORY

Independence, Missouri has left its mark in history, beginning in the days when pioneers left Independence to follow the Santa Fe, California, or Oregon Trails. From the days when individuals such as Kit Carson and Jim Bridger stopped in Independence, the city has grown to over 120,000 in population and is the fourth largest city in the State of Missouri. The City has twice received the All-American City Award and is the home of former President Harry S. Truman. The Truman Library is a national treasure and draws thousands of visitors each year. President Truman and Bess Wallace Truman were educated in the public schools of Independence.

The School District of the City of Independence has a long and proud tradition of providing an outstanding educational program for the youth of the community. The 1866 Board of Education included such prestigious citizens as William Chrisman, for whom one of the current high schools is named, and William McCoy, in whose honor the coveted McCoy Medal Award, given annually to the top 100 juniors based upon grades earned during the first four semesters of high school, is named. McCoy also served as Independence's first mayor. The highly acclaimed artist, George Caleb Bingham, was also a member of the Board of Education in 1869.



In keeping with this heritage, the present Board of Education is providing leadership to prepare today's students for the twenty-first century. The philosophy of the Board of Education is to develop all the peoples' children to their highest potential.

The National Governors Association selected Independence as one of sixteen school districts across the country to implement recommendations issued in a report entitled "Time for Results." The announcement was made in early 1987 by the United States Department of Education. The District was chosen because of its strong leadership, evidence of community support and ability to implement innovative and creative programs.

"I like math because if you don't know about math, you don't know how to tell time and count money."

Zachary Paul, Second grader

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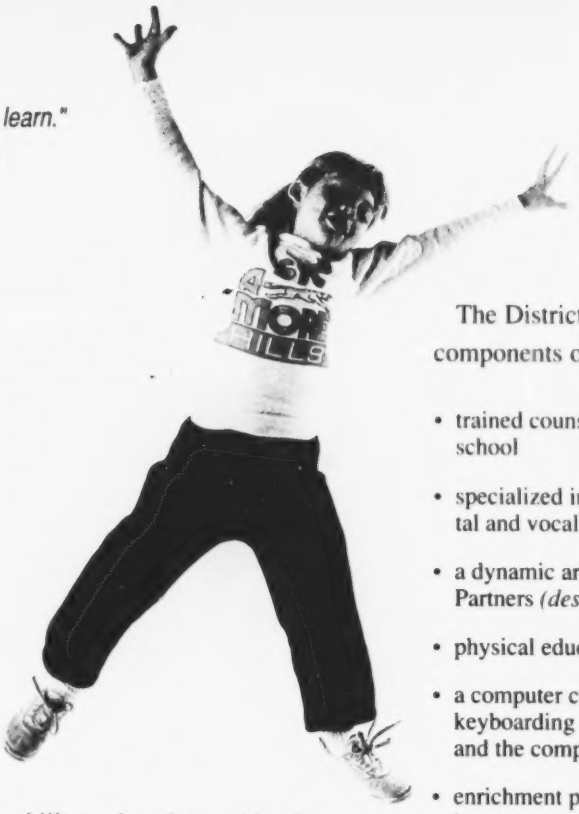
"My teachers help me learn."

Josie Zimmermann, First grader



ELEMENTARY PROGRAM
Basics and More...

Independence was one of the original districts in Missouri to pilot the Parents as Teachers Program which has become an exemplary model for early childhood education throughout the nation. Additionally, Independence is one of only two large districts in the State of Missouri with all of its schools accredited by the North Central Association. Each individual building has undergone a rigorous self-evaluation process as well as an on-site observation by a visiting team in order to qualify for North Central Association membership. The District is classified in Missouri as a "AAA" District -- which represents the highest rating given by the State of Missouri.

Reading and language arts are emphasized in the elementary school program. Several specifically designed programs have been developed to promote good reading skills, including the recognized Success in Reading and Writing program, which focuses on the approach that reading and writing skills are best learned in the process of acquiring other knowledge. Another is Focus Curriculum which provides five hours of reading daily for third grade students who demonstrate reading deficiencies. Additionally, reading teachers work with students, on an individual and small group basis, who are experiencing difficulty with reading.

Mathematics, science and social studies are also important subject areas.

The District also provides these components of the K-6 program:

- trained counselors available in each school
- specialized instruction in instrumental and vocal music and visual arts
- a dynamic arts program, Arts Partners *(described on page 12)*
- physical education instruction
- a computer curriculum that teaches keyboarding skills, word processing and the computer language, Logo
- enrichment programs in foreign language
- a variety of clubs and organizations such as student council
- awards for participating in science fairs, music contests, and math relays
- participation in Effective Schools
- Exchange City, an economics and business program for fifth grade students that combines classroom work and hands-on experience
- field trips
- IMPACT, a well-planned program for gifted elementary and junior high school students

TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY SCHOOLS

Beginning in the fall of 1988 the District will be involved in an extensive before and after school care program called the Schools of the Twenty-First Century. Information about this program is available at District elementary schools.

"Being on the yearbook staff has helped me learn to get things in on time and when to press for deadlines."

Kim Burton, Eighth grader

JUNIOR HIGH PROGRAM
Opportunities for Growth...

Both junior high schools in the District offer a comprehensive curriculum which includes classes for 7th and 8th grade students in the following areas:

- Language Arts
- Mathematics
- Social Studies
- Science
- Vocal Music
- Orchestra
- Band
- Industrial Arts
- Physical Education
- Speech
- Art
- French
- Spanish
- Home Living
- IMPACT *(Gifted Students)*

An important aspect of the junior high program is the opportunity for students to participate in extracurricular activities including:

- Student Council
- Yearbook Staff
- Newspaper Staff
- Math Club
- Computer Club
- Intramurals
- Chess Club
- Red Cross Club
- Problem Solving Team
- Science Club
- National Junior Honor Society
- Parent Teacher Student Association

The Board of Education recognizes student achievement in junior high school by awarding the Junior High Academic Achievement Award to outstanding eighth graders. Junior high teams from Independence have consistently ranked high in state-wide academic competition.

A DISTINGUISHED FACULTY

District faculty have earned many national and state awards including:

- **Presidential Award for Excellence in Science and Mathematics Teaching**
- **National Journalism Teacher of the Year**
- **National Daughters of the American Revolution American History Teacher of the Year**
- **A Christa McAuliffe Fellowship**
- **State finalists for Missouri Teacher of the Year in 1986 and 1987**
- **National Executive Educator 100 Award, given annually to only 100 administrators--to Independence administrators, one in 1987 and two in 1988**

"I play the sax, so music is very important to me."

Brian Wowak, Eighth grader

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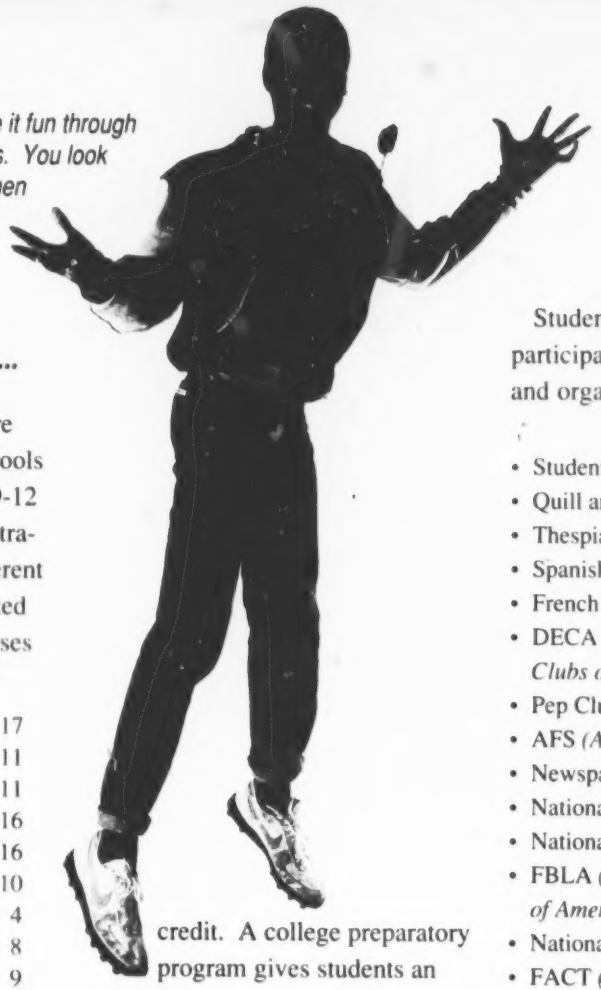
"School can be fun if you make it fun through certain activities such as sports. You look forward to coming to school when you get up in the morning."

Kevin Brown, Senior



SENIOR HIGH PROGRAM
Preparation for the Future...

More than 150 courses are offered by the high schools for students in grades 9-12 as well as a wide variety of extra-curricular activities. The different areas of the curriculum are listed along with the number of courses offered in that area.

• Language Arts	17
• Foreign Language	11
• Science	11
• Social Studies	16
• Mathematics	16
• Communication Skills	10
• Art	4
• Computer Science	8
• Music	9
• Industrial Technology	19
• Business	10
• Distributive Education	3
• Home Economics	15
• Dramatics	5
• Health and Physical Education	5

A complete Program of Studies is available by calling the Board of Education office. The District also offers the State of Missouri College Recommendation Certificate, a rigorous program that requires students to complete 24 units of credit. A college preparatory program gives students an opportunity to earn college credit in the areas of American History, English, mathematics, and science.

Twenty-two units of credit are required for graduation.

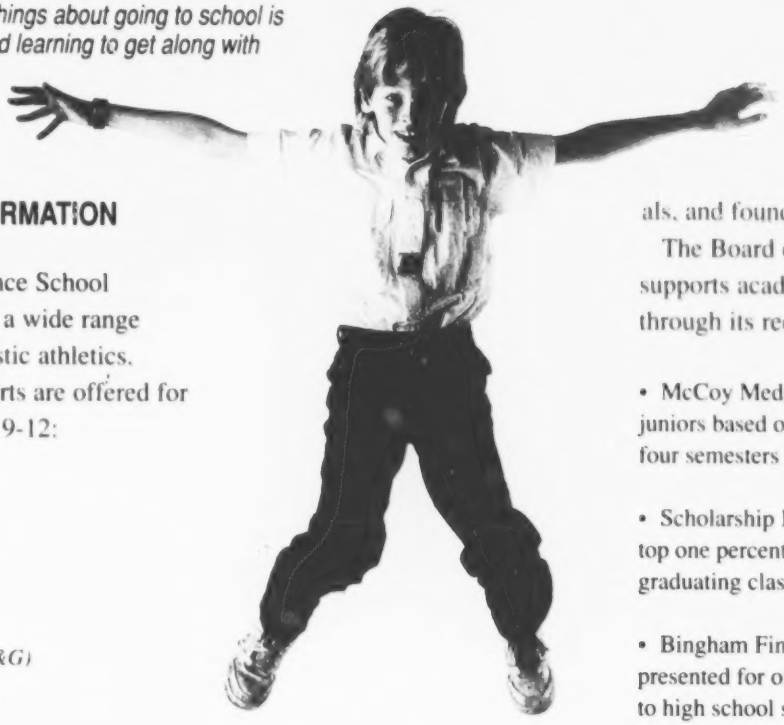
• English/Language	3	units
• Social Studies	3	units
• Science	2	units
• Mathematics	2	units
• Practical Arts	1	unit
• Fine Arts	1	unit
• Physical Education	1	unit
• Electives	9	units
TOTAL	**22**	**units**

Students are encouraged to participate in the following clubs and organizations:

- Student Council
- Quill and Scroll
- Thespians
- Spanish Club
- French Club
- DECA *(Distributive Education Clubs of America)*
- Pep Club
- AFS *(American Field Service)*
- Newspaper
- National Honor Society
- National Art Honor Society
- FBLA *(Future Business Leaders of America)*
- National Spanish Honor Society
- FACT *(Friends Always Caring Together)*
- Science Club
- National Forensics League
- Home Economics Club
- Interact
- Chess Club
- Cheerleaders
- Modern Music Masters
- Drill Team
- Computer Club
- Yearbook
- Electronics Club
- Math Club
- French Honor Society

"One of the best things about going to school is making friends and learning to get along with everyone.

Matt Shoal, Fourth grader



GENERAL INFORMATION

The Independence School District offers a wide range of interscholastic athletics. The following sports are offered for students in grades 9-12:

- Football *(Boys)*
- Volleyball *(Girls)*
- Wrestling *(B)*
- Softball *(G)*
- Baseball *(B)*
- Cross Country *(B&G)*
- Basketball *(B&G)*
- Track *(B&G)*
- Tennis *(B&G)*
- Baseball *(B)*
- Swimming *(B&G)*
- Golf *(B)*
- Soccer *(B)*

District students consistently score above the state averages on the Missouri Mastery and Achievement Test (MMAT) given at grades 3, 6, 8, and 10. High school students regularly exceed the national averages on ACT (American College Testing) and SAT (Scholastic Aptitude Test) scores. More than 53% of District graduates enroll in higher educational institutions. The high schools recognize two to six semi-finalist and National Merit Scholars each year. Graduates annually receive more than 150 scholarships offered by colleges, universities, individuals, and foundations.

The Board of Education strongly supports academic achievement through its recognition programs.

- McCoy Medal - given to the top 100 juniors based on grades from the first four semesters of high school.

- Scholarship Medals - awarded to the top one percent of each high school's graduating class.

- Bingham Fine Arts Award - presented for outstanding achievement to high school students in nine areas of fine arts.

Palmer Junior High School was selected as an Excellence in Education winner for the United States Department of Education's Secondary School Recognition Program for 1986-87. Only six schools in Missouri won this award in 1987. Truman High School and Sycamore Hills and Thomas Hart Benton Elementary Schools have been state level finalists in other Department recognition programs.

"The only way to get a job is by going to school and learning all we can."

Stephanie Lachance, Fourth grader

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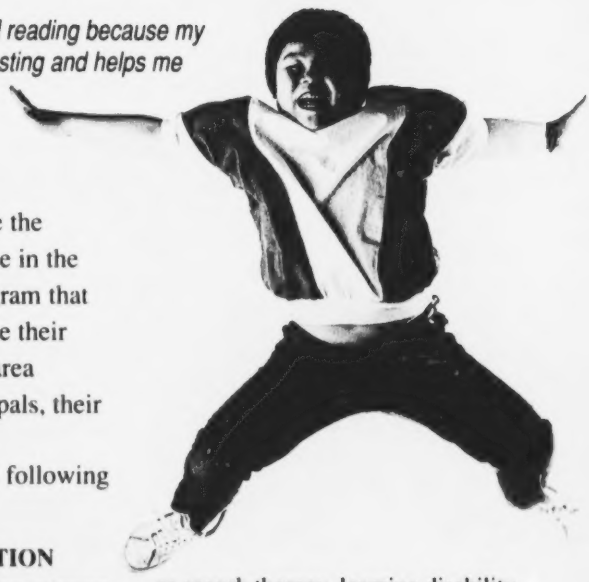
"My favorites are math and reading because my teacher makes them interesting and helps me understand,"

Dennis Jeung, Fifth grader



INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAMS

The pupil/teacher ratio averages 22 to 1 with over 60 percent of the teaching staff having at least a Master's degree. More than 80 percent of the teaching staff are active in the Career Ladder Program which provides opportunities for increased responsibilities and compensation. It fosters professional growth, the exchange of ideas, and cooperation among teachers.

Many teachers have received Incentive Grants from the Missouri Department of Education to improve instruction and to develop new classroom and District programs.

District staff also have the opportunity to participate in the Staff Development Program that enables teachers to refine their teaching skills, subject area expertise, and for principals, their supervision skills.

The District offers the following programs:

CONTINUING EDUCATION

An extensive adult education program with more than 140 courses in adult education is offered each semester. Central Missouri State University conducts a college credit program at Truman High School.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

The District offers a wide array of services for students with handicapping conditions. In addition to the fairly typical special education services such as speech therapy, learning disability instruction, classes for students with mental retardation and programs for students with behavioral disorders, the District offers programs for the following students:

- preschool handicapped
- emotionally disturbed
- visually impaired
- hearing impaired
- orthopedically handicapped
- handicapped students in transition from school to the world of work

PARENT CONFERENCES

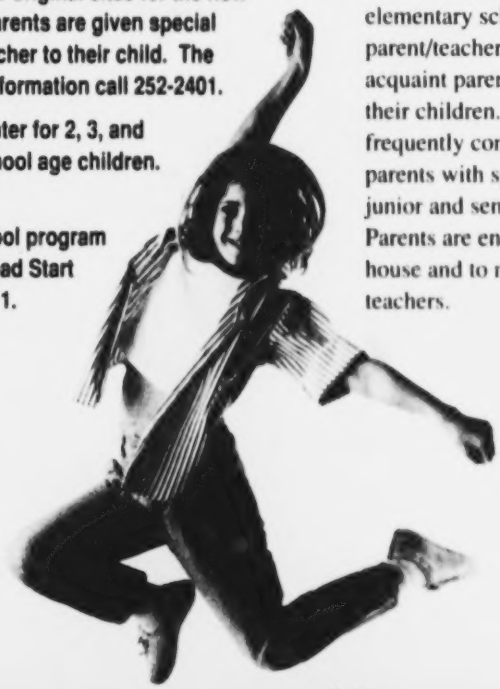
At the conclusion of the first quarter, elementary school staffs schedule parent/teacher conferences in order to acquaint parents with the progress of their children. Secondary teachers frequently communicate directly with parents with specific information about junior and senior high school students. Parents are encouraged to attend open house and to meet students' individual teachers.

CHILD CARE SERVICES

The Independence School District has long been a leader in providing services to young children. Independence was one of four original sites for the now state program "Parents As Teachers." New parents are given special instructions on how to be an effective first teacher to their child. The program is available to all new parents. For information call 252-2401.

The District operates the Noland Day Care Center for 2, 3, and 4 year olds and before and after school for school age children. For information call 252-9551.

The District operates Project Reach, a preschool program for handicapped children -- 373-0847 and a Head Start Program for disadvantaged children -- 836-2011.



"I like studying about the Oregon trail and history."

Amber Jones, Fourth grader.

UNIQUE PROGRAMS

MATH/PHYSICS INSTITUTE
Seniors have the opportunity to attend the Truman Campus at UMKC and earn college credit in calculus and physics.

ARTS PARTNERS
The Independence School District, working with three other school districts, major funding organizations, and performing and visual arts groups, has established an opportunity for students, grades K-12, to be exposed to cultural offerings by such organizations as the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, the Lyric Opera, The Missouri Repertory Theatre, and the Kansas City Symphony.

MUSIC/ARTS INSTITUTE
The Independence Board of Education refurbished and leased historic McCoy School to Music Arts, a nonprofit organization offering a curriculum of private and group lessons, children's classes in Suzuki and Orff-Schulwerk methods, performing ensembles, and ballet and creative movement classes.

THE MICHELANGELO PROJECT
Developed by the Independence School District and administered by the Music/Arts Institute with a matching grant from the Greater Kansas City Community Foundation and Associated Trusts, the Michelangelo Project will search out gifted students in the Independence area and will enable students with outstanding potential to receive appropriate instruction, designed to nurture extraordinary accomplishments in the arts.

OPERATION AWARE
A program that teaches 5th and 6th grade students about peer pressure.

PROJECT STAR
An award winning drug awareness and resistance program is taught in the junior highs.

PROJECT GRADUATION
The Independence School District sponsors a drug-free, alcohol-free graduation party for seniors the night of graduation.

TEACHER ADVISORY PROGRAMS (T.A.)
Both high schools and one junior high have established T.A. programs in which teachers work with small groups of students on a regular basis to advise them in academic matters.

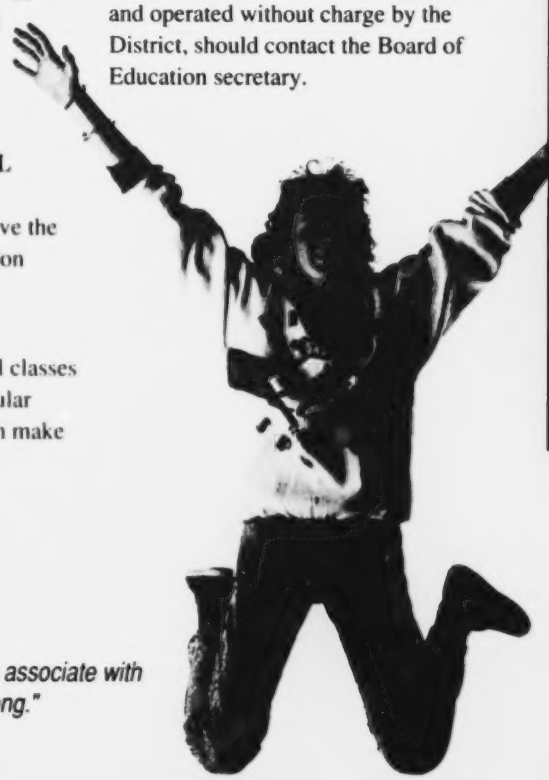
VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL SCHOOL
11th and 12th grade students have the opportunity to attend Joe Herndon Vocational Technical School.

ZERO HOUR
Both high schools have optional classes offered one hour before the regular school day begins. Students can make up credits during this period or schedule classes that they were not able to take during the regular school day.

SUMMER SCHOOL
A wide range of courses is offered during the summer months for junior and senior high students. A student attending both three-week sessions of summer school can earn a full credit toward graduation.

STUDENT/TEACHER EXCHANGE
Annually, students and teachers participate in an exchange program with Buckinghamshire, England.

SCHOLARSHIPS
The District administers 26 perpetual scholarships for students. Information on how these are awarded may be obtained by calling the Board of Education secretary. Those interested in starting a scholarship, administered and operated without charge by the District, should contact the Board of Education secretary.



"School also teaches us how to associate with other people and how to get along."

Mindy Povenmire, Eighth grader

APPENDIX

As an eastern suburb of the metropolitan Kansas City area, Independence is just minutes from the Jackson County Sports Complex, home of the Kansas City Chiefs football team and the Kansas City Royals baseball club. The world famous Country Club Plaza and the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art are within a half hour's drive.

Many historical opportunities such as the Truman Library, the Bingham-Waggoner Estate and the Vaile Mansion can be found in Independence.

Access to nearby universities including the University of Missouri at Kansas City and cultural features such as the Kansas City Symphony provide Independence with big-city opportunities while providing a Mid-west suburban atmosphere. The area also offers 13 major shopping centers.

Since 1866, the School District of the City of Independence has benefited from a proud tradition of excellence in education, and looks forward to the twenty-first century.

STATISTICS

Assessed Valuation *(1987-1988)*	$353,879,235
Tax Rate *(Incidental Fund $.26, Teacher Fund $2.23, Debt Service Fund $.30, Building Fund $.49)*	$3.28
Budget *(1987-1988)*	$39,509,281
Approximate District Population	75,000
Area of District	33 sq. miles
Student Enrollment K-12	11,200
Average Student/Teacher Ratio	22/1
Number of Certified Staff	689
Total Staff	1,250
Average Teacher Salary *(Third Highest in Area)*	$31,400
Cost per Pupil *(1987-1988 estimate)*	$3,400
Missouri Classification	AAA
Total Accreditation *(K-12)*	North Central
[illegible] Athletic Association Classification	4A
[illegible] Buildings - 2 High Schools, 2 Junior High Schools, 13 [illegible]ary Schools, Noland Preschool and Day Care Center, Harris[illegible] Center, Oldham Education Center	
School Organization - Preschool, K-6, 7-8, 9-12	

The Board of Education is elected by qualified voters of the District. Regular meetings are held at 7:30 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at the Administration Office, 1501 S. Windsor. The Board invites patrons to attend the meetings and express any concerns or suggestions. The Board exists to provide the best possible education for all children. Patrons are encouraged to contact members of the Board or the administration with suggestions for improvement or other comments.

DIRECTORY

ELEMENTARY

1.	Blackburn	17302 R.D. Mize Road, 64057	373-1195
2.	Bryant	827 W. College, 64050	461-0930
3.	Glendale	2611 Lee's Summit, 64055	836-1137
4.	John W. Luff	3700 S. Delaware, 64055	254-4066
5.	Mill Creek	2601 N. Liberty, 64050	833-2711
6.	Ott	1525 N. Noland Road, 64050	254-1685
7.	Procter	1403 W. Linden, 64052	461-0616
8.	Randall	509 Jennings, 64056	257-0969
9.	Santa Fe Trail	1301 S. Windsor, 64055	461-1450
10.	Spring Branch	20404 E. Truman Road, 64056	796-8703
11.	Sycamore Hills	15208 E. 39th Street, 64055	373-1000
12.	Thomas Hart Benton	429 S. Leslie, 64050	461-3232
13.	William Southern	4300 Phelps Road, 64055	373-0420

JUNIOR HIGH

14.	Bridger	2110 Speck Road, 64057	796-4200
15.	Palmer	218 N. Pleasant, 64050	254-7474

SENIOR HIGH

16. Truman .....3301 S. Noland Road, 64055 833-1313
17. William Chrisman ..... 1223 N. Noland Road, 64050,.....252-1200

PRESCHOOL

18. Parents as Teachers *(birth through age 3)*
Hanthorn School .....1511 Kingshighway, 64055 252-2401
19. Project Reach *(severely handicapped 3 and 4 year olds)*
Sycamore Hills .....15208 E. 39th Street, 64055 373-0847
20. Noland Preschool and Day Care Center *(ages 2 through 12)*
.....515 S. Liberty, 64050.....252-9551
21. Head Start *(economically disadvantaged 3 and 4 year olds)*
Hanthorn School .....1511 Kingshighway, 64055 836-2011

SUPPORT SERVICES

22. Buildings/Grounds ....505 N. Dodgion, 64050.....252-8233
23. Food Service Office ..501 N. Dodgion, 64050.....254-8383
24. Oldham Education Ctr.....14220 E. 35th, 64055.....833-4417

25. Administrative Offices .....1231 S. Windsor, 64055 ...833-3433

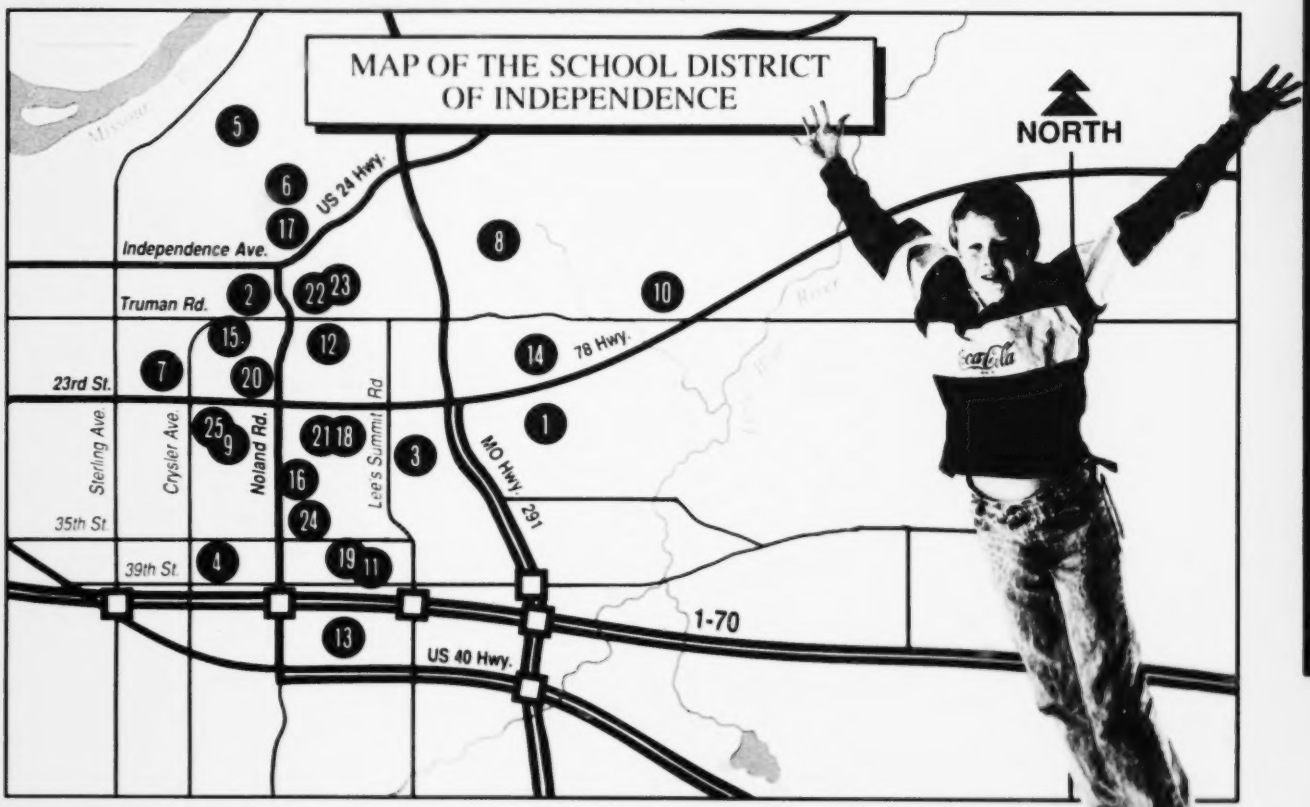
BOARD OF EDUCATION
1231 South Windsor
Independence, Missouri 64055
(816) 833-3433

Sharon Williams .....President
Helen French .....Vice President
Michael Barnett .....Treasurer
Ronald Finke .....Director
Phil Parrino.....Director
Sharon K. Floyd .....Director

Dr. Robert Henley .....Superintendent
Dr. Bob Watkins .....Deputy Superintendent

For additional information concerning programs in the Independence School District, contact the administrative offices at 1231 S. Windsor, Independence, MO 64055, (816) 833-3433 or any District building.

Numbered locations on map refer to the numbered addresses in the directory.



"School is important because it helps develop skills I'll need all my life."

Jeff McMurray, Seventh grader

Other Independence students and teachers featured in book are -- Front cover: John Mackie, Junior. Ashli Hutchens, 5th grade; Paul Tonga, 1st grade. Page Two: Judy Tyson, Instructor; Matthew VanKirk and Melody Kettlewell, Kindergarten. Page Three: Julie Degenfelder, Instructor; Ben Moore, 5th grade. Page Six: Eugene Sanders, Instructor; Dann Chance, Jason Trusler and Matt Hazlett, 8th grade. Page Seven: Sheri Adams, Instructor; Angela Hedding, Brian Phillips, Emmet Romine and Chris Stroud, Senior. Page Ten: Lee Slusher, Instructor; Corey Doty, Kevin Rahija and Stacy Butler, 6th grade. Back cover: Alissa Flowers, Sophomore.

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